

# ***Waking in the Blue***

**Key Ideas:** Education, wealth and class are no barriers to madness

Poem combines private and public worlds: experience as a mental patient functions to satirize a broader American context of class pretentious.

Poem is 'confessional' in the sense that it recounts an autobiographical experience but more so because it is so evocatively honest about human vulnerability.

**Activity 1.** Find examples for each method of representation.

How are these ideas represented?	Example
Extended metaphor (conceit): likens asylum to the ocean	
Surreal images	
Satiric vignettes (or impressionistic scenes of social criticism)	
Parody of New England social pretense	
Rhyming couplets	

How are these ideas represented?	Example
Assonance	
Alliteration	

## Activity 2.

Substantiate each of these three topic sentences. Use the scaffold to help you write a paragraph for each topic sentence.

- Lowell's satirical use of incongruous juxtapositions is as humorous as it is reductive.
  - Give examples of incongruous images that are juxtaposed
  - Explain why they are satirical (i.e. humorous)
  - How do these images criticize class pretentiousness
- Lowell's controlled use of parenthesis suggests a conspiratorial aside to the reader satirizing not only Catholicism but also himself.
  - Cite examples when parenthesis is used.
  - What 'conspiratorial aside' do you think Lowell makes about Catholicism?
  - How does he include himself in that same criticism?
- The brutal, self mockery and simple language of the closing lines are confessional and challenge the hypocrisy of his contemporaries.
  - Cite the closing lines
  - Where is the self mockery?
  - What is straight forward about the lines?
  - Explain how personal and social contexts are fused.